

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6765

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USEDEL SECRETARY

REF: STATE 220189 (TOSEC 260077)

1. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH (2200 LOCAL) WITH ROSS CRAIG OF AMOCO WHO ELABORATED ON REPORT PARA 1 REFTEL AS FOLLOWS.

2. AT ABOUT 1430 LOCAL ISRAELI REFUELING VESSEL REFUELED ISRAELI GUNBOATS. HALF HOUR LATER ISAEI GUNBOATS AGAIN CAME OUT AND BEGAN SHOOTING UP THE BUOYS AROUND PLATFORM 6. ACCORDING TO CRAIG, PLATFORM 6 IS ABOUT ON MEDIAN LINE AND BUOYS ARE ABOUT 1800 TO 2500 FEET AWAY FROM PLATFORM AND MARK ANCHORS. ISRAELI GUNBOATS ALSO SHOT UP BUOY AT 304.1 SITE AND AMOCO HAS THIS CONFIRMED BY ONE OF ITS PEOPLE WHO JUST CAME INTO CAIRO FROM AREA.

3. AMOCO DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW MANY BUOYS ISRAELIS HIT. SEAS ARE HEAVY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL. HOWEVER, RICHOCHETTING OF BULLETS GREATLY ALARMED PEOPLE ON PLATFORM, WHICH PROMOTED AMOCO TO EVACUATE MOST OF CREW OF PLATFORM 6 (RIG 28) AND OF ESTRALITA ON RAMADAN 5 PLATFORM, LOCATED ABOUT 1500 FEET WEST OF PLATFORM 6.

FIVE PEOPLE WERE LEFT ABOARD PLAFORM AND 12 ON ESTRALITA. AMOCO WAS ALSO PREPARING EVACUATE PEOPLE FROM TWO OTHER PLATFORM RIGS

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IN

GENERAL AREA, BUT ULTIMATLY DECIDED NOT TO DO SO WHEN ISRAELI FIRING STOPPED.

4. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS WERE IN RAS SHUKAIR WHEN ISRAELIS STARTED FIRING, THEY SUBSEQUENTLY MADE TWO SORTIES INTO AREA BETWEEN 1500 AND 1800. AMOCO WORKED ON MINPET HILAL TO GET EGYPTIAN GUNBOATS WITHDRAWN AND LAST ONE LEFT AREA AROUND 1800 LOCAL. AT PRESENT ALL IS QUIET.

5. CRAIG SAYS AMOCO HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO SEND MARINER BACK TO 304.1 FOR TIME BEING. INSTEAD, WITH HILAL'S APPROVAL, MARINER WILL

OPERATE IN JULY 25 FIELD. AMOCO WANTS TO LET SITUATION COOL FOR A FEW DAYS TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT.

6. MY EFFORTS CONTACT GAMASY THIS EVENING HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. HE IS NOT AT HOME OR IN HIS OFFICE. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS CONTACT HIM.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-1124
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760990/aaaaczjn.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 220189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS DEPT PLEASE PASS USEDEL SECRETARY
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US, XE, AMOCO
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006